

Procurement of paddy by FCI in Andhra Pradesh

152. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of paddy of all varieties procured by FCI in Andhra Pradesh during the period from October, 2000 to 31st January, 2001 and the figures for the corresponding period of the previous years; and

(b) the reasons for the variation, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) During the current Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001 (till 31.1.2001), 88291 tonnes of all varieties of paddy has been procured by the Food Corporation of India in Andhra Pradesh. No paddy was purchased during the previous Kharif Marketing Seasons. During the current Kharif Marketing Seasons, paddy has been procured by FCI to prevent distress sale by farmers as paddy prices were reported to be ruling below the Minimum Support Prices in some of the districts in Andhra Pradesh due to bumper harvest.

Procurement of paddy by FCI

153. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any target for procurement of paddy by FCI;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the actual purchase made so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) As the procurement operations are voluntary in nature, and the farmers have the choice to sell their produce to the State Governments/or in the Open Market, as is advantageous to them, no targets are fixed for procurement of paddy. However, based on the estimated production and availability of paddy, procurement estimates are given by the State Governments prior to the commencement of each Marketing Season.

(c) The State-wise procurement of paddy by Food Corporation of India till 14.2.2001 is as follows:—

s. No.	State	Qty. in Lakh MTs
		Paddy procured
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.42
2.	Bihar	0.05
3.	Haryana	0.56
4.	Himachal Pradesh	0.01
5.	Karnataka	0.01
6.	Punjab	27.83
7.	Rajasthan	0.31
8.	Chandigarh	0.24
TOTAL		30.43